

PRESIDENT: Any further announcements from the floor? It's a little before the ordinary hour, but....

CLERK: I have some more amendments on LB 220.

PRESIDENT: Did you want to proceed, Senator Schmit?

SENATOR SCHMIT: I'm ready to proceed.

PRESIDENT: Alright.

SENATOR SCHMIT: I have only one more. There may be some others, but they're not mine.

CLERK: Mr. President, there is another amendment on LB 220 offered by Senator Schmit. (Read Schmit amendment found on page 437 of the Journal).

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature. There is some question about the language being definite enough, so we drafted the language which you have here before you, and which outlines, very clearly, what is meant in the bill. There was some question about what would really be sold, etc., so we use the language that is herein contained. I would be glad to answer questions on it. Then on page 10 you will notice that the provision did not apply to the raising of animals, birds, etc. We further outlined the intent of the committee that it would not apply to the slaughtering and related processing in connection thereof. This is in line with the intent of the bill, it refers to the packaging materials and not to the bulk materials. Therefore, I would move the adoption of the amendments and would answer any questions.

PRESIDENT: Senator Murphy.

SENATOR MURPHY: I have some concerns about the bill. I guess this is as good a point as any, particularly in this region, to address them. One, it is referred to as a three-pronged attack. It's going to levy tax and, therefore, engender reports at the manufacturers level, the wholesalers level and the retailers level as I read it anyhow, in my understanding or lack of it. This, of course, is fine if everybody is in Nebraska. But it seems to me that we are going to impose taxes on Nebraskans that we will not impose on others by so doing. Outside manufacturers will not be pronged in the manufacturing category. The wholesalers, outstate, will pay no tax, only the retailer will pay tax on a foreign product, be it manufactured or distributed outside the state. In the interests of avoiding one more bureaucracy and one more series of reports at three levels it would seem to me that an awful lot of this could be reduced to one level. Nor would I want to make it a burden upon the retailer to determine whether or not this is to be consumed or carried out of the state. It seems to me that in this purported wide-base attack about the only thing we have attacked is the bureaucracy of this bill. It is going to require all these reports for what will be on an item-by-item basis, a very minuscule tax that I think, certainly, should be incorporated at one level, one series of reports. Let's alienate only a third of the population, rather than three-thirds.